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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/243,107	02/02/1999	JUDITH E. SCHWABE	08993/009001	2012

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HO, THE T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2126	19

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/243,107	SCHWABE ET AL.
	Examiner The Thanh Ho	Art Unit 2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9,13-15,17-39,43-45,47-65,69-71 and 73-82 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9,13-15,17-39,43-45,47-65,69-71 and 73-82 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12 .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed 8/25/2003.
2. Claims 1-9, 13-15, 17-39, 43-45, 47-65, 69-71, 73-82 have been examined and are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9, 13-15, 25-27, 29-39, 43-45, 55-65, 69-71 and 81-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yellin U.S Patent No. 5,761,513 in view of Levy U.S Patent No. 6,092,147.

As to claim 26, Yellin discloses managing exceptions throwable during execution of methods in classes (line 66 column 1 to line 28 column 2) by a virtual machine (lines 11-57 column 3), each method (each method, line 13 column 3) including protected code (protected code block, line 63 column 3) and an exception handler array defining exception handlers associated with the method (the code for the exception handlers, line 14-15 column 3), the protected code of methods stored in a first portion (throwable, error and exception, 122) of a package (Java class file, line 20 column 3) according to an ordering, combining in block form (Fig. 1) the exception handler arrays

for methods into a single exception handler table (one table of exception handlers for all the methods in a class, lines 16-18 column 3); the exception handler arrays positioned in a second portion of the package (ThreadDeath to NoSuchElementException, Fig. 2), searching the exception handler table (found in a tree search, lines 42-44 column 3) when an exception is thrown (an exception is thrown, line 41 column 3) while executing one of the methods (while executing the protected code block, line 65 column 3) including locating a first matching exception in the single exception handler table (the enclosing exception handlers that is applicable to the thrown exception, lines 42-44 column 3). However, Yellin does not explicitly disclose a resource-constrained device.

Levy teaches implementing a virtual machine on a resource-constrained device (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Levy to the system of Yellin because this provides a reduction in the overall memory size and an increase in the overall processing speed of the virtual machine as disclosed by Levy (lines 33-55 column 2).

As to claim 1, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 2, Yellin as modified further teaches combining all exception handler arrays for all methods in a class in the single exception handler table (one table of exception handlers for all the methods in a class, lines 16-18 column 3).

As to claim 3, Yellin as modified further teaches combining all exception handler arrays for all methods in all classes in the single exception handler table (lines 19-40 column 3).

As to claim 4, Yellin as modified further teaches combining all exception handler arrays for all methods in a Java package (the methods in a Java class file, line 20 column 3 and Fig. 4) in the single exception handler table (one table of exception handlers for all the methods in a class, lines 16-18 column 3).

As to claim 5, Yellin as modified further teaches a method is included in a class file (the methods in a Java class file, line 20 column 3 and Fig. 4); combining the exception handler arrays for all methods in a class file in the single exception handler table (one table of exception handlers for all the methods in a class, lines 16-18 column 3).

As to claim 6, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 7, Yellin as modified further teaches retrieving in order exception handler entries (first exception handler found, line 42 column 3) from the exception handler table and checking the type and range of each exception handler (class rank is determined by position, lines 49-50 column 3) for the first matching exception handler.

As to claim 8, Yellin as modified further teaches stopping searching if a current exception handler does not match and is the last handler for the top most level of protected code in an associated method (lines 19-47 column 7).

As to claim 9, Yellin as modified further teaches the class files are Java class files (Java class file, line 20 column 3).

As to claim 13, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 14, Levy further teaches the resource constrained device is a smart card (smart card, line 7 column 3).

As to claim 15, note the discussion of claim 26.

As to claim 25, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 27, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 29, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 30, note the discussions of claims 26 and 5-6 above.

As to claims 31-39 and 43-45, note the discussions of claims 1-9 and 13-16 above, respectively.

As to claims 55-57, note the discussions of claims 25-27 above, respectively.

As to claims 58-65 and 69-71, note the discussions of claims 2-9 and 13-15 above, respectively.

As to claims 81-82, note the discussions of claims 25-26 above, respectively.

4. Claims 17-24, 28, 47-54, and 73-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yellin in view of Levy, and further in view of Bak U.S Patent No. 6,009,517.

As to claim 17, note the discussion of claims 26 above. However, Yellin as modified does not disclose a return pointer. Bak discloses a stack with frames wherein each frame includes a return pointer (line 52 column 2 to line 41 column 3). It would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Bak to the system of Yellin as modified because this allows exceptions propagate through the execution stack for handling by the appropriate exception handler, even when the functions were written in different

languages and the format of the exceptions are different as disclosed by Bak (lines 52 column 2 to line 7 column 3).

As to claim 18, Bak further discloses the pointer is a direct pointer to the exception handler information (lines 55-66 column 2).

As to claim 19, note the discussion of claim 9 above.

As to claim 20, note the discussion of claim 26 above.

As to claim 21, note the discussions of claims 2 and 26 above.

As to claim 22, note the discussion of claim 14 above.

As to claim 23, Yellin as modified further discloses registering the package in a registry service at installation (line 11 column 3 to line 9 column 4), the registry service maintaining a pointer indicating a location of the combined exception handler table (lines 41-57 column 3), and a range defining a range of addresses at which methods are located (lines 9-18 column 3).

As to claim 24, Yellin as modified further discloses locating a package associated with a currently executing method including comparing an address at which an exception was thrown against the range for each package registered in the registry service (line 58 column 3 to line 9 column 4), searching the combined exception handler table associated with a located package (lines 41-57 column 3).

As to claim 28, note the discussion of claim 17 above.

As to claims 47-54, note the discussions of claims 17-24 above, respectively.

As to claims 73-80, note the discussions of claims 17-24 above, respectively.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that Yellin does not disclose grouping methods of classes in a package (Remarks, first paragraph page 25). In response, Yellin discloses the protected code of methods stored in a first portion (thrownable, error and exception, 122) of a package (Java class file, line 20 column 3) according to an ordering, combining in block form (Fig. 1) the exception handler arrays for methods into a single exception handler table (one table of exception handlers for all the methods in a class, lines 16-18 column 3); the exception handler arrays positioned in a second portion of the package (ThreadDeath to NoSuchMethodError, Fig. 2). The reference meets the limitations as broadly claimed.

Applicant argued that Yellin does not show correlation between the loading order of protected code and exception handler arrays (Remarks, first paragraph page 26). In response, Fig. 1 of Yellin reference clearly show the links of one method to other methods through the use of protected code wherein the exception handlers of these methods are all arranged in one table (lines 16-18 column 3). The reference meets the limitations as broadly claimed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to The Thanh Ho whose telephone number is 703-306-

5540. A voice mail service is also available for this number. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or fax to:

- AFTER-FINAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746 – 7238
- OFFICIAL faxes must be signed and sent to (703) 746 – 7239
- NON OFFICIAL faxes should not be signed, please send to (703) 746 – 7240

TTH
September 5, 2003



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